

Report of the 'Central Empowered Committee'

†114. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a condition to this effect is inserted in every agreement between S.E.C.L. and M/s. Aryan Coal Benefication Ltd. that M/s. Aryan Coal Benefication Ltd. would not sell, 'reject' or 'washed coal' in any circumstances;

(b) whether the Central Empowered Committee in its report have accused that M/s. Aryan Coal Benefication Ltd. sells coal in the name of 'reject';

(c) if so, the action taken against the concerned officials, of S.E.C.L.; and

(d) the time upto which this kind of sale in the name of 'reject' would be continued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Death of coal miners

115. SHRIMOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the death of fifty four coal miners in an accident in Bhatdih mine in Jharkhand whether the managements of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. who are responsible for a gross violation of safety rules have been punished;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) A Court of Enquiry has been constituted by the Government of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment, *vide* notification No. S.O.1756(E) dated 12-10-06 to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the accident occurred in Bhatdih Mine of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL)

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in Jharkhand, in which fifty coal miners lost their lives and four received reportable injury. The Court of Enquiry is to submit its report within a period of three months. Based on the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry Report, action will be taken against the persons found responsible for the accident.

Coal miners of Bhatdih mines

116. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of death and injured coal miners of Bhatdih Mines, a mine reportedly under BCCL;

(b) the amount of compensation and employment provided to families of the deceased;

(c) the findings of enquiry into the accidents held;

(d) whether Government are considering to formulate a long term policy about underground mining;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Fifty workers lost their lives and four received reportable injury at Bhatdih Mine Disaster under Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) occurred on 6-9-2006.

(b) The total amount of compensation paid to each dependent of the deceased varies from Rs. 8.87 lakhs to Rs. 11.06 lakh. This includes additional *ex-gratia* of Rs. 3.00 lakhs to each as announced by Hon'ble Minister of Coal and Rs. 1.00 lakh to each sanctioned by Chief Minister, Jharkhand. Besides an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 1.00 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund has also been sanctioned.

Out of 50 deceased, employment to 48 dependents of the deceased workmen has already been given, while one lady dependent has opted for monetary compensation which will continue till she attains the age of 60 years and one under-aged male dependent has been kept in employment